INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/EP2004/010673

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 C23C14/16 C23C14/02 C23C10/02 C23C14/58 According to international Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) C23C IPC 7 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category ° 1-10,12 X DE 195 27 515 C (FRAUNHOFER GES FORSCHUNG :PREUSSAG STAHL AG (DE); KLOECKNER STAHL) 28 November 1996 (1996-11-28) 1-11 the whole document WO 02/14573 A (KRETSCHMAR MATTHIAS 1-11 ;SCHUHMACHER BERND (DE); WOLFHARD DIETRICH (DE) 21 February 2002 (2002-02-21) cited in the application page 10, line 20 - page 12, line 12 page 15 - page 16 PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1-11 Y vol. 017, no. 068 (M-1365), 10 February 1993 (1993-02-10) & JP 04 274890 A (NIPPON STEEL CORP), 30 September 1992 (1992-09-30) abstract Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed *&* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 27 January 2005 09/02/2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentiaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo ni, Hintermaier, F Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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